Arts Resources

Mission

To enrich the lives of Indiana's citizens and visitors by encouraging, educating, and promoting participation in the arts; by collecting, preserving and interpreting the state's artistic contribution to a wider public, and by providing resources to educators to encourage the study and appreciation of the arts in Indiana.

Summary of Activities

The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) provides programs and services to arts providers (artists, arts organizations, community-based agencies, and schools and universities) in five key areas: community development, organizational development, artist development, arts education, and non-grant services (marketing, research and development, information technology, evaluation, cultural needs assessment and planning, and training). The IAC promotes and supports visual arts and crafts, literature, media and performing arts.

The IAC created a Regional Partnership Initiative (RPI) in 1997 to leverage the resources of 12 private, non-profit agencies to assist the IAC with the decentralization of the IAC's programs and services to reach communities in all 92 counties. The RPI has increased the number of grants to arts providers and has improved service delivery at the regional level.



T.C. Steele, Selma in the Garden, c. 1910, oil on canvas

The IAC has partnered with the **Indiana University** Folklore Institute to create "Traditional Arts Indiana", and surveyed more than 200 folk artists in 50 counties in two years. The IAC's collaborations with the Indiana Humanities Council, the **Department of Commerce** Tourism Division, and the State Museum to develop new arts initiatives will provide increased access to and information about cultural opportunities in Indiana to Indiana's citizens and visitors.

The **Department of Natural Resources** (DNR) Division of State Museums and Historic Sites provides a range of services to citizens. The DNR administers the Indiana State Museum (ISM), where its collection of Indiana art, including many works by the Hoosier Group (T.C. Steele, et. al.) of impressionist artists, is stored, preserved and exhibited. The collection has been assembled through the generosity of donors and through the Division's Artifact Acquisition Fund. The ISM also develops public exhibitions, special events, and programs to help visitors learn more about Indiana's cultural history. The development of the exhibition series is dependent upon loans of artwork, corporate and individual support, and IAC grants.

Recognizing the role of the arts in each student's total education, the **State Board of Education** requires the inclusion of music and visual art in a balanced curriculum in grades K-8. High school students pursuing the Academic Honors Diploma must earn two credits in fine arts courses. The **Department of Education** (DOE) assists schools and educators to meet these requirements by providing curricular guidelines, academic standards, and course descriptions for classroom instruction in the fine arts (visual arts, theater, dance, and music) for grades K-12. The DOE provides professional development services for arts educators by offering or collaborating in presenting seminars in arts assessment, integration of the arts into other subjects, licensing reforms, and support for first-year teachers.

External Factors

Federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts has been reduced by almost 40% over the last four years, resulting in fewer education and artist grants, as well as a reduction in staff at the Indiana Arts Commission.

Evaluation and Accomplishments

People benefitted from the IAC-supported programs on 19 million occasions, including 4 million occasions for schoolage children and 2.5 million older adults. The IAC provided \$3.6 million in over 370 grants to the Regional Partnership Initiative, arts providers, and individual artists.

The DNR State Museums and Historic Sites division has a notable collections of Indiana paintings, Amish quilts and Indiana coverlets. Each year about 200 pieces from the collection are loaned to other exhibits. Paintings from the Hoosier Group were includes in an Indianapolis Museum of Art exhibit in Germany.

Plans for the Biennium

Governor O'Bannon will establish the Indiana Heritage and Culture Council, composed of public and private agencies, to ensure the state is efficiently and thoroughly protecting, preserving and nurturing its historical and cultural resources.

The current IAC strategic plan for 2001 - 2004 is focused on: developing the capacity of the Regional Partners, developing a statewide cooperative arts marketing plan, strengthening the delivery and quality of arts education, and increasing public and private investment in the arts.

Special Initiatives

DNR staff resources will be directed toward preparing to move to the new Indiana State Museum in White River State Park in 2002. This effort will include research and

Artist's rendering of the new Indiana State Museum

development of permanent exhibits and shows, which will be in the permanent fine arts hall and the gallery for temporary exhibits. The new Indiana State Museum will provide new public programs, educational opportunities, and rotating temporary exhibits. The DNR will be using various means to acquaint Hoosiers with this new resource and its expanded services. It is anticipated that public visitations will increase 300% over the present State Museum.

